

MEETING MINUTES
Sustainable Sharon Coalition General meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Zoom Remote Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/3524688267>

In Attendance: Aneeza Ahmad, Marlene Arnold, Colin Barbera, Eitan Becker, Ellen Bordman, Cherry Chun, Molli Denrich, Kathy Farrell, Silas Fyler, Tim Humphreys, Carol Kleiner, Paul Lauenstein, Bri McAlevey, Kathi Mirza, Charlotte Pototsky, Elliot Pototsky, Helen Poynton, Cheryl Schnitzer, Ricky Stern, Aaron Tamkin, Simone Tamkin, Debbie Tatro, Melissa Tian, Jeffrey Xiang, Steven Zeitler, Kirstie Pecci (Conservation Law Foundation)

1. Welcome (Cheryl Schnitzer)

- Recited Vision Statement together.
- Reminded everyone of the SSC Word of the Year - ReThink!
- Welcomed new attendees (Carol Kleiner, Eitan Becker, Steven Zeitler)
- Reported on Email Board Vote on 8/27/20 motion from Paul Lauenstein. Detailed motion is attached and summarized as follows: to contribute \$100 to each of three organizations (Sharon Youth Lacrosse, Sharon Soccer and Sharon Youth Baseball) for a total contribution of \$300, to help them with their initiatives to raise \$2500 for maintenance of current Sharon athletic fields. Motion approved: 13 Yes
- Congratulated Debbie Tatro for becoming a grandmother this morning (Welcome Naomi!)
- Presentation by SSC Energy Interns on Electric Vehicles (Thank you, Interns, Simone, and the Mentors!)
 - Sharon Community TV will be featuring our 5 interns and show their recorded presentation
 - Charlotte presented various facts about EVs
 - Aneeza interviewed Sharon EV owners - if we had more charging stations, people would feel more comfortable about buying an EV; Sharon should encourage
 - Elliot researched types of charging options for EVs
 - Aaron test drove a Tesla Model 3 and provided feedback
 - Jeffrey researched EV stats in SharonQuestions/Comments -
 - Tesla is planning to add 12,000 charging stations nationwide, and by 2028 50% of market will be Hybrid/EV
 - Would be interesting to see what plans Sharon has in new projects regarding adding charging stations

2. Report from SSC Energy and Climate Committee (Silas Fyler for Artie Crocker)

- a. Steel arrived for solar canopy at East Elementary. Heights is likely to be turned on this fall. After a year and a half, Dept of Public Utilities released the aggregation, so that program will move forward, probably around February. Need to qualify energy brokers, putting out bids, and advertising what the rates are to the town. Will start seeing information on it all soon.

3. Report from SSC Zero Waste Committee (Debbie Tatro/Helen Poynton)

- a. Reusable Bags: Ricky reported that we are not really selling a lot of bags yet, but planning to do a lot more promotion via social media, including reminding people that you can now use your reusable bags again in the supermarket. If everyone just tries to get 4 people to buy a bag, we'll sell the "2020" bags. We are also donating 200 bags. Paul suggested using them as business gifts.
 - b. Zero Waste: Debbie - We were pleased that using artificial turf for the new high school was denied, but the School Committee announced that they will be appealing the decision. Town meeting will be outdoors on Oct 12th, and we have an article up for vote on a 3-year moratorium on installation of any artificial turf to give us the time to consider the health as well as the financial implications. Please show up on Oct 12th to vote on Article 18. There will be a prior Zoom meeting for people to ask questions.
4. Report from SSC Communities, Interfaith, and Multicultural Committee (Marlene Arnold for Asma Abdullah)
- a. Began a faith-based community list so we can begin assigning liaisons to each one, learn what green initiatives they are working on, and be a resource for them to help them achieve those goals
 - b. We are co-organizing a Webinar on Environmental Racism with Temple Sinai and Sharon Equity Alliance currently scheduled for Thursday Oct 15th 7:30-8:30pm (assuming panelists can be confirmed for that date). It will consist of a moderator and 4 panelists that cover the issue from a research/educational perspective, state legislative, public health, and youth representation. We are currently reaching out to potential panelists in these areas and hope to have all confirmed by Sept 15th. We will then have a flier and email verbiage to start promoting throughout the community.
5. Next SSC monthly meeting: Wed. Oct. 7th, 7:00 PM. If anyone has a suggestion for guest speaker let Cheryl Schnitzer know
6. Guest Speaker: Kirstie Pecci, Director of the Zero Waste Project and a Senior Fellow at Conservation Law Foundation
- Feel like I'm talking to my people - you've been doing great work in Sharon already!
 - CLF is a nonprofit that works in all New England states as legal advocates for environmental protection. Pecci works to help influence zero waste throughout the region.
 - Q: How well is single stream recycling (SSR) working?
 - Single stream is one of the problems with our landfills. Started out small, where you separated and brought recyclable items to a recycling center. Then for curbside collection, we went to a dual stream (where bottles and cans are collected separately from paper and cardboard). Single stream recycling (collection of paper, cardboard, bottles & cans all mixed together) came about when the waste management industry made changes to improve their collection efficiency. Their goal is to make it as easy as possible and pick up as much as possible, but less concerned with how well it's being recycled.
 - It killed paper/cardboard recycling and destroyed its value
 - Glass is not getting recycled... getting ground up instead

- China has refused to accept any more of our plastic

(Post-clarification: SSR caused problems with contamination but cardboard recycling is doing OK and has value, paper still in demand. Glass from SSR programs is low quality and is used to replace other materials in construction projects rather than being made into new glass. Glass that is collected separately has higher value and market demand.)

- As much as 20-25% of material delivered to a recycling facility is deemed unacceptable. Glass will be melted down since it's mixed and not clean enough, and paper/cardboard gets messed up from the rest. So you're not seeing any market except downcycling markets which cost towns more money (as high as \$140/ton) Sharon is paying ~\$70 for trash and in \$90s for recycling TIPPING fee.
 - Kathi - Sharon is better than state average; Our contamination rate is in the teens
- Yes, but there's only really a market for plastic #1 #2 and maybe #5. Glass has become a huge problem. Mass DEP has done a great job and we need to keep using the system, but we should be moving toward lowering the burden to the town (e.g. we are not getting the most for our recyclables). Dual stream is a huge improvement - it was not DEP's idea to go to single stream.
 - Kathi - in the short term, facilities aren't set up for dual stream (*confirmed with Waste Management Avon facility 9-14-2020*)
- Best things we can do?
 - Expanding the bottle bill (pushing at the State level) to get most of the glass out of single stream
 - Pushing for Producer Responsibility System for packaging. In these systems, manufacturers bear the responsibility for end of life management creating incentives to make packaging reusable and recyclable. The more recyclable the packaging, the less you pay to dispose of it.
 - Banning the single use plastics that are gumming up the works.
- You'd be amazed how important your voices can be. Call your legislatures and know what bills are coming down the pike. New Zero Waste Caucus. Six phone calls indicate to legislators that their constituents are concerned - that's not a lot.
 - Mass DEP Master Plan for 2020-2030- Sept 10th. Comments due Sept 15.
- Q: What should Sharon's next step be? Go back to dual stream?
 - Learn what worked, what didn't with Sharon's SMART trash program.
 - How do we get everyone to a 35gal container? Look at what is working in reducing trash, and take it to the next level.
 - Look to reduce cost. Look to materials that are easier to separate and have the most value. Start a cardboard drop off. Create a textile program where on recycle day, you can put out a bag of textiles. (Pays \$20/ton)

7. Adjourned at 8:30pm. (Zoom meeting remained open for any members who wanted to continue the discussion with Kirstie.)

Details regarding Motion for SSC to donate \$300 for Sharon athletic fields (Paul Lauenstein):

Many of the athletic fields in Sharon are in poor condition. Our student-athletes deserve safe, playable fields. There are few if any suitable locations to build new fields in Sharon without destroying the natural open spaces and wildlife habitat that make Sharon special (check out the wildlife sightings at: <http://www.sharonfoc.org>). Thus, we need to provide good maintenance for the fields we have.

A group of concerned residents is working on an initiative to hire a professional to analyze the fields and formulate a maintenance plan to significantly improve them. This fall, we want to upgrade four of Sharon's dozen fields as a sort of pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. The cost for analyzing the fields and formulating a plan is \$2,500, which includes five years of monitoring and advice by Tom Irwin Advisors to ensure the success of the program.

The four fields we have selected are the High School, Ames Street, East Elementary, and Gavins Pond Road. We are asking the Town to underwrite the High School field, and we have asked three sports organizations; Sharon Youth Lacrosse, Sharon Soccer and Sharon Youth Baseball; to raise \$2,500 each for maintenance plans for the other three fields. The Sharon DPW already has a budget for the actual maintenance work, but we believe that professional maintenance plans based on scientific analyses of actual conditions at each field would help strategically allocate those funds for maximum benefit.

Please "reply all" to vote to contribute \$100 to each of the three above-mentioned organizations (total of \$300) to help them with this initiative.

Paul Lauenstein